

PRESERVE EXPIRING SCHIP FUNDS FOR CHILDREN'S HEALTH

The American Medical Association (AMA) supports ensuring that over \$1 billion of expiring State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funds will continue to be made available to states. This is vitally important to children in danger of losing their health coverage.

Currently, more than 8.5 million children across the country do not have health care coverage. These children are not receiving medical care that would help improve the quality of their lives even though many of them are eligible for the free or low-cost coverage provided under Medicaid and SCHIP.

Because of this, the AMA's Medical Student Section has been actively working to register children for health insurance coverage through SCHIP by setting up enrollment programs at local schools, community centers, hospitals and free clinics. No child should have to go without medical care and treatment when health coverage for them is widely available.

Last year, Congress, through the passage of legislation (P.L. 108-74), wisely chose to reinvest \$2.7 billion in SCHIP funds back into state programs rather than letting it revert to the Treasury.

It is the AMA's hope that Congress will take similar action this year and ensure that no SCHIP funds revert to the Treasury through 2007.

ACT NOW TO PRESERVE SCHIP FUNDS



American Medical Association
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